

CODIFICATION

Act Mar. 3, 1911, conferred the powers and duties of the former circuit courts upon the district courts.

§ 105. Depositions of witnesses residing outside county

Whenever the witness resides outside the county in which the hearing occurs any party to the proceeding may take the testimony of such witness in the county of such witness's residence in the form of depositions by giving ten days' written notice of the time and place of taking such depositions to the opposite party or parties. The depositions may be taken before any United States magistrate judge, notary public, judge, or clerk of a court of record. Subpoenas for witnesses before the officer taking depositions may issue from the office of the officer designated by the Secretary of the Interior or may be issued by the officer taking the depositions, and disobedience thereof, as defined in section 104 of this title, shall also be punished; and the witness shall receive the same fees and mileage and be subject to the same penalties in all respects as in case of violation of a subpoena to appear before the officer designated by the Secretary of the Interior and subject to the same limitations. The fees of the officer taking the depositions shall be the same as those allowed in the State or Territorial courts, and shall be paid by the party taking the deposition, and an itemized account of the fees shall be made by the officer taking the depositions and attached to the depositions.

(Jan. 31, 1903, ch. 344, § 4, 32 Stat. 790; Oct. 28, 1921, ch. 114, § 1, 42 Stat. 208; Mar. 3, 1925, ch. 462, 43 Stat. 1145; 1946 Reorg. Plan No. 3, § 403, eff. July 16, 1946, 11 F.R. 7876, 60 Stat. 1100; Pub. L. 90-578, title IV, § 402(b)(2), Oct. 17, 1968, 82 Stat. 1118; Pub. L. 101-650, title III, § 321, Dec. 1, 1990, 104 Stat. 5117.)

CODIFICATION

The original text of this section referred to both registers and receivers, but reference to the latter was omitted in view of the abolition of such office under acts Mar. 3, 1925, and Oct. 28, 1921, which provided for the consolidation of the two offices under a register only. See, also, Transfer of Functions note below.

CHANGE OF NAME

"United States magistrate judge" substituted in text for "United States magistrate" pursuant to section 321 of Pub. L. 101-650, set out as a note under section 631 of Title 28, Judiciary and Judicial Procedure. Previously, "United States magistrate" substituted for "United States commissioner" pursuant to Pub. L. 90-578. See chapter 43 (§ 631 et seq.) of Title 28.

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of functions of other officers, employees, and agencies of Department of the Interior, with certain exceptions, to Secretary of the Interior, with power to delegate, see Reorg. Plan No. 3 of 1950, §§ 1, 2, eff. May 24, 1950, 15 F.R. 3174, 64 Stat. 1262, set out under section 1451 of this title.

Words "officer designated by the Secretary of the Interior" substituted for "register" on authority of section 403 of Reorg. Plan No. 3 of 1946. See note set out under section 1 of this title.

§ 106. Continuing taking of depositions in behalf of opposite party

Whenever the taking of any depositions taken in pursuance of section 105 of this title is concluded the opposite party may proceed at once at his own expense to take depositions in his own behalf, at the same time and place and before the same officer: *Provided*, That he shall, before taking of the depositions in the first instance is entered upon, give notice to the opposing party, or any agent or attorney representing him in the taking of said depositions of his intention to do so.

(Jan. 31, 1903, ch. 344, § 5, 32 Stat. 791.)

§ 107. Penalty for false information

If any person applies to any officer designated by the Secretary of the Interior to enter any land whatever, and the officer knowingly and falsely informs the person so applying that the same has already been entered, and refuses to permit the person so applying to enter the same, such officer shall be liable therefor, to the person so applying, for \$5 for each acre of land which the person so applying offered to enter, to be recovered by action of debt in any court of record having jurisdiction of the amount.

(R.S. § 2247; 1946 Reorg. Plan No. 3, § 403, eff. July 16, 1946, 11 F.R. 7876, 60 Stat. 1100.)

CODIFICATION

R.S. § 2247 derived from act July 4, 1836, ch. 352, § 13, 5 Stat. 112.

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of functions of other officers, employees, and agencies of Department of the Interior, with certain exceptions, to Secretary of the Interior, with power to delegate, see Reorg. Plan No. 3 of 1950, §§ 1, 2, eff. May 24, 1950, 15 F.R. 3174, 64 Stat. 1262, set out under section 1451 of this title.

References to "register" changed to "officer designated by the Secretary of the Interior" and "officer" on authority of section 403 of Reorg. Plan No. 3 of 1946. See note set out under section 1 of this title.

CHAPTER 5—LAND DISTRICTS

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| 121. | Discontinuance of land offices by President. |
| 122. | Discontinuance of land offices by Secretary of the Interior. |
| 123. | Continuance of land offices when required by public convenience. |
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| 126. | Change of location of land offices. |
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| 128. | Division or change of boundaries; continuance of business of original district. |
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§ 121. Discontinuance of land offices by President

Upon the recommendation of the Secretary of the Interior, the President may order the dis-

continuance of any land office and the transfer of any of its business and archives to any other land office within the same State or Territory. (R.S. §2252; 1946 Reorg. Plan No. 3, §403, eff. July 16, 1946, 11 F.R. 7876, 60 Stat. 1100.)

CODIFICATION

R.S. §2252 derived from act May 30, 1862, ch. 86, §5, 12 Stat. 409.

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of functions of other officers, employees, and agencies of Department of the Interior, with certain exceptions, to Secretary of the Interior, with power to delegate, see Reorg. Plan No. 3 of 1950, §§1, 2, eff. May 24, 1950, 15 F.R. 3174, 64 Stat. 1262, set out under section 1451 of this title.

Words "the Commissioner of the General Land Office, approved by" omitted on authority of section 403 of Reorg. Plan No. 3 of 1946. See note set out under section 1 of this title.

DELEGATION OF FUNCTIONS

For delegation to Secretary of the Interior of authority vested in President by this section, see Ex. Ord. No. 10250, June 5, 1951, 16 F.R. 5385, set out as a note under section 301 of Title 3, The President.

§ 122. Discontinuance of land offices by Secretary of the Interior

Whenever the quantity of public land remaining unsold in any land district is reduced to a number of acres less than one hundred thousand, it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Interior to discontinue the land office of such district; and if any land in any such district remains unsold at the time of the discontinuance of a land office, the same shall be subject to sale at some one of the existing land offices most convenient to the district in which the land office has been discontinued, of which the Secretary of the Interior shall give notice.

(R.S. §2248.)

CODIFICATION

R.S. §2248 derived from act June 12, 1840, ch. 36, §2, 5 Stat. 385.

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of functions of other officers, employees, and agencies of Department of the Interior, with certain exceptions, to Secretary of the Interior, with power to delegate, see Reorg. Plan No. 3 of 1950, §§1, 2, eff. May 24, 1950, 15 F.R. 3174, 64 Stat. 1262, set out under section 1451 of this title.

§ 123. Continuance of land offices when required by public convenience

The Secretary of the Interior may continue any land district in which is situated the seat of government of any one of the States, and may continue the land office in such district, notwithstanding the quantity of land unsold in such district may not amount to one hundred thousand acres, when, in his opinion, such continuance is required by public convenience, or in order to close the land system in such State.

(R.S. §2249.)

CODIFICATION

R.S. §2249 derived from act Sept. 4, 1841, ch. 16, §7, 5 Stat. 455.

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of functions of other officers, employees, and agencies of Department of the Interior, with certain exceptions, to Secretary of the Interior, with power to delegate, see Reorg. Plan No. 3 of 1950, §§1, 2, eff. May 24, 1950, 15 F.R. 3174, 64 Stat. 1262, set out under section 1451 of this title.

§ 123a. Continuance of existing land districts and offices in Alaska; change of district boundaries, or discontinuance of districts; designation and location of land offices

Subject to the authority conferred upon the Secretary of the Interior by this section, the land districts and land offices existing in Alaska on October 9, 1942 are continued. The Secretary of the Interior is authorized and empowered in his discretion to change the boundaries of, or discontinue, any land district in Alaska, and in lieu thereof to designate such land district, or land region, as, in his opinion, is necessary for the transaction of the business relating to the public lands in the Territory and to designate or change the location of any land office for such land district or land region.

(Oct. 9, 1942, ch. 584, §6, 56 Stat. 779.)

CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 365 of Title 48, Territories and Insular Possessions.

LAND DISTRICTS AND LAND OFFICES CONTINUED

Provisions of acts Feb. 14, 1902, ch. 17, §1, 32 Stat. 20; Mar. 2, 1907, ch. 2537, §1, 34 Stat. 1232, which constituted former section 365 of Title 48, Territories and Insular Possessions, and were repealed by section 7 of Act Oct. 9, 1942, which enacted this section, read as follows: "There shall be two land districts in Alaska, the boundaries of which shall be designated by the President, to be known as the Nome land district and the Fairbanks land district, with the land offices located, respectively, at Nome, Alaska, and Fairbanks, Alaska, and one other land district and land office, the location of which shall be fixed by the President."

§ 124. Consolidation of land offices

It shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Interior to consolidate the district land offices where practicable and consistent with the public interests.

(Aug. 5, 1892, ch. 380, §1, 27 Stat. 368.)

APPROPRIATIONS

The Secretary of the Interior was required to consolidate the district land offices so as to bring the total compensation of the registers and receivers for the fiscal year 1894, within the appropriation made therefor by the sundry Civil Appropriation Act for that year, act Mar. 3, 1893, ch. 208, 27 Stat. 591, which was fixed at \$520,000.

§ 125. Annexation of discontinued district to adjacent district

Whenever the cost of collecting the revenue from the sales of the public lands in any land district is as much as one-third of the whole amount of revenue collected in such district, it may be lawful for the President, if, in his opinion, not incompatible with the public interest, to discontinue the land office in such district, and to annex the same to some other adjoining land district.

(R.S. § 2250.)

CODIFICATION

R.S. § 2250 derived from act Mar. 3, 1853, ch. 97, § 1, 10 Stat. 189, 194.

DELEGATION OF FUNCTIONS

For delegation to Secretary of the Interior of authority vested in President by this section, see Ex. Ord. No. 10250, June 5, 1951, 16 F.R. 5385, set out as a note under section 301 of Title 3, The President.

§ 126. Change of location of land offices

The President is authorized to change the location of the land offices in the several land districts established by law, and to relocate the same from time to time at such point in the district as he deems expedient.

(R.S. § 2251.)

CODIFICATION

R.S. § 2251 derived from acts Mar. 3, 1853, ch. 97, § 1, 10 Stat. 204; Mar. 3, 1853, ch. 144, 10 Stat. 244.

DELEGATION OF FUNCTIONS

For delegation to Secretary of the Interior of authority vested in President by this section, see Ex. Ord. No. 10250, June 5, 1951, 16 F.R. 5385, set out as a note under section 301 of Title 3, The President.

§ 127. Change of boundaries of land districts

The President is authorized to change and re-establish the boundaries of land districts whenever, in his opinion, the public interests will be subserved thereby, without authority to increase the number of land offices or land districts.

(R.S. § 2253.)

CODIFICATION

R.S. § 2253 derived from act June 29, 1870, ch. 171, 16 Stat. 171.

DELEGATION OF FUNCTIONS

For delegation to Secretary of the Interior of authority vested in President by this section, see Ex. Ord. No. 10250, June 5, 1951, 16 F.R. 5385, set out as a note under section 301 of Title 3, The President.

§ 128. Division or change of boundaries; continuance of business of original district

In case of the division of existing land districts by the erection of new ones, or by a change of boundaries by the President, all business in such original districts shall be entertained and transacted without prejudice or change, until the offices in the new districts are duly opened by public announcement under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior. All sales or disposals of the public lands heretofore regularly made at any land office, after such lands have been made part of another district by any Act of Congress, or by any act of the President, are confirmed, provided the same are free from conflict with prior valid rights.

(R.S. § 2254.)

CODIFICATION

R.S. § 2254 derived from act May 31, 1872, ch. 241, 17 Stat. 192.

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of functions of other officers, employees, and agencies of Department of the Interior, with cer-

tain exceptions, to Secretary of the Interior, with power to delegate, see Reorg. Plan No. 3 of 1950, §§ 1, 2, eff. May 24, 1950, 15 F.R. 3174, 64 Stat. 1262, set out under section 1451 of this title.

§ 129. Office rent and clerk hire for consolidated land offices

The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to make a reasonable allowance for office rent for each consolidated land office; and when satisfied of the necessity therefor, to approve the employment of one or more clerks, at a reasonable per diem compensation, for such time as such clerical force is absolutely required to keep up the current public business, which clerical force shall be paid out of the surplus fees authorized to be charged by section 84¹ of this title, if any, and if no surplus exists, then out of the appropriation for incidental expenses of district land offices; but no clerk shall be so paid unless his employment has been first sanctioned by the Secretary of the Interior.

(R.S. § 2255; 1946 Reorg. Plan No. 3, § 403, eff. July 16, 1946, 11 F.R. 7876, 60 Stat. 1100.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 84 of this title, referred to in text, was repealed by Pub. L. 86-649, title II, § 202(b), July 14, 1960, 74 Stat. 507. See section 1734 of this title.

CODIFICATION

R.S. § 2255 derived from act Feb. 18, 1861, ch. 38, § 2, 12 Stat. 131.

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of functions of other officers, employees, and agencies of Department of the Interior, with certain exceptions, to Secretary of the Interior, with power to delegate, see Reorg. Plan No. 3 of 1950, §§ 1, 2, eff. May 24, 1950, 15 F.R. 3174, 64 Stat. 1262, set out under section 1451 of this title.

Words "by the register" following "to approve the employment" omitted on authority of section 403 of Reorg. Plan No. 3 of 1946. See note set out under section 1 of this title.

§ 130. Entry of public lands in States where no land offices exist

Public lands situated in States in which there are no land offices may be entered at the Bureau of Land Management, subject to the provisions of law touching the entry of public lands; and the necessary proofs and affidavits required in such cases may be made before some officer competent to administer oaths, whose official character shall be duly certified by the clerk of a court of record. And moneys received by the Secretary of the Interior, or such officer as he may designate, for lands entered by cash entry shall be covered into the Treasury.

(Mar. 3, 1877, ch. 102, § 1, 19 Stat. 315; June 19, 1878, ch. 329, § 1, 20 Stat. 201; 1946 Reorg. Plan No. 3, § 403, eff. July 16, 1946, 11 F.R. 7876, 60 Stat. 1100.)

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of functions of other officers, employees, and agencies of Department of the Interior, with certain exceptions, to Secretary of the Interior, with power to delegate, see Reorg. Plan No. 3 of 1950, §§ 1, 2,

¹ See References in Text note below.

eff. May 24, 1950, 15 F.R. 3174, 64 Stat. 1262, set out under section 1451 of this title.

“Bureau of Land Management” substituted for “General Land Office” and “Secretary of the Interior, or such officer as he may designate,” substituted for “Commissioner of the General Land Office” on authority of section 403 of Reorg. Plan No. 3 of 1946. See note set out under section 1 of this title.

CHAPTER 6—WITHDRAWAL FROM SETTLEMENT, LOCATION, SALE, OR ENTRY

Sec.	
141.	Repealed.
142.	Rights of occupants or claimants of oil- or gas-bearing lands; exceptions to withdrawals.
143.	Repealed.
144.	Entries on land withdrawn as valuable for oil or gas validated.
145.	Sale of lands withdrawn.
146.	Patents to purchasers of lands withdrawn.
147.	Disposition of proceeds of sale of withdrawn lands.
148.	Repealed.
149.	Exchange of private lands included in Indian reservation for other lands.
150.	Withdrawals of land for Indian reservations prohibited.
151.	Opening of lands restored to entry after withdrawals.
152.	Restoration of lands previously withdrawn.
153.	Reservation of lands in North Dakota.
154.	Vacation of withdrawals under reclamation law; lands valuable for minerals; reservation of rights, ways, and easements; rules and regulations.
155.	Withdrawal, reservation, or restriction of public lands for defense purposes; “public lands” defined; exception.
156.	Approval by Congress necessary for withdrawal, reservation, or restriction of over 5,000 acres for any Department of Defense project or facility.
157.	Application for withdrawal, reservation, or restriction; specifications.
158.	Mineral resources on withdrawn lands; disposition and exploration.

§ 141. Repealed. Pub. L. 94-579, title VII, § 704(a), Oct. 21, 1976, 90 Stat. 2792

Section, act June 25, 1910, ch. 421, § 1, 36 Stat. 847, authorized the withdrawal and reservation of lands for water-power sites and other purposes.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF REPEAL

Section 704(a) of Pub. L. 94-579 provided that this section is repealed effective on and after Oct. 21, 1976.

SAVINGS PROVISION

Repeal by Pub. L. 94-579 not to be construed as terminating any valid lease, permit, patent, etc., existing on Oct. 21, 1976, see section 701 of Pub. L. 94-579, set out as a note under section 1701 of this title.

EX. ORD. NO. 10355. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

Ex. Ord. No. 10355, eff. May 26, 1952, 17 F.R. 4831, as amended by Pub. L. 101-509, title V, § 529 [title I, § 112(c)], Nov. 5, 1990, 104 Stat. 1427, 1454, provided:

SECTION 1. (a) Subject to the provisions of subsections (b), (c), and (d) of this section, I hereby delegate to the Secretary of the Interior the authority vested in the President by section 1 of the act of June 25, 1910, ch. 421, 36 Stat. 847 [this section], and the authority otherwise vested in him to withdraw or reserve lands of the public domain and other lands owned or controlled by the United States in the continental United States or Alaska for public purposes, including the authority to

modify or revoke withdrawals and reservations of such lands heretofore or hereafter made.

(b) All orders issued by the Secretary of the Interior under the authority of this order shall be designated as public land orders and shall be submitted to the Division of the Federal Register, General Services Administration, for filing and for publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(c) No order affecting land under the administrative jurisdiction of any executive department or agency of the Government other than the Department of the Interior shall be issued by the Secretary of the Interior under the authority of this order without the prior approval or concurrence, so far as the order affects such land, of the head of the department or agency concerned, or of such officer of the department or agency concerned as the head thereof may designate for such purpose; *Provided*, that such officer is required to be appointed by the President by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

(d) Any disagreement between two or more executive departments or agencies with respect to any proposed withdrawal or reservation shall be referred to the Director of the Bureau of the Budget [now Office of Management and Budget] for consideration and adjustment. The Director may, in his discretion, submit the matter to the President for his determination.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to issue such rules and regulations, and to prescribe such procedures, as he may from time to time deem necessary or desirable for the exercise of the authority delegated to him by this order.

SEC. 3. The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to redelegate the authority delegated to him by this order to one or more of the following-designated officers: the Deputy Secretary of the Interior and the Assistant Secretaries of the Interior.

SEC. 4. This order supersedes Executive Order No. 9337 of April 24, 1943, entitled “Authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to Withdraw and Reserve Lands of the Public Domain and Other Lands Owned or Controlled by the United States”.

EX. ORD. NO. 12688. TRANSFER AUTHORITY CHOCTAWHATCHEE NATIONAL FOREST, FLORIDA

Ex. Ord. No. 12688, Aug. 15, 1989, 54 F.R. 34129, provided:

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and laws of the United States of America, including Pub. L. No. 668, 76th Cong., 3d Sess., 54 Stat. 655 (1940), to ensure that excess property under the control of the Department of Defense within and adjacent to the Choctawhatchee National Forest, Florida, is transferred to the Department of Agriculture for inclusion in the National Forest, it is hereby ordered as follows:

The Secretary of Defense is hereby delegated the President’s authority under Pub. L. No. 668, 76th Cong., 3d Sess., 54 Stat. 655 (1940), to transfer such property within or adjacent to the boundaries of Choctawhatchee National Forest, Florida, that is no longer required for military purposes, to the Secretary of Agriculture to be restored to national forest status. To the extent this order delegates the President’s authority under Pub. L. No. 668, 76th Cong., 3d Sess., 54 Stat. 655 (1940), to the Secretary of Defense, it supersedes Executive Order No. 10355 [set out above], which delegates the President’s authority to revoke withdrawals and reservations of public lands to the Secretary of the Interior. The Secretary of Defense will document the transaction by letter of transfer between the Departments. The Secretary of Defense, 30 days prior to taking any action to transfer property pursuant to this order, shall notify the Secretary of the Interior of the effective date and time for “opening” of the lands to relevant land laws. The authority delegated by this order may be further redelegated within the Department of Defense.

GEORGE BUSH.